be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available. NABARD has further reported that the balance amount has been kept by the RRBs as balance with Reserve Bank of India by way of Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), deposits with sponsor banks/other banks and investment in SLR/Non-SLR securities. The amount kept as deposits by the RRBs with the sponsor banks/other banks as on 31-3-2004 was Rs. 14832.77 crore. The amount of deposits in RRBs during last three years are as under.

(Rs. Crore)

	As on 31-3-2002	As on 31-3-2003	As on 31-3-2004
Total Amount of Deposits in RRBs	44539.15	50098.33	56350.34

Seizure of button cells

2834. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Customs, Excise and Income Tax authorities in Mumbai are examining the seizure of button cells imported by M/s. Shimmu Machine Tool Equipment Ltd., Mumbai;

(b) if so, the complete details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that offices of the above company and its associate companies were raided and Government have found incriminating documents; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken for filing of criminal cases against the above firms under IPC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (c) No, Sir.

(b) and (d) Do not arise.

Refusal of claim of interest of Himachal Grameen Bank

2835. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the claim of interest worth Rs. 28, 20, 500/- on SLR deposits of Himachal Grameen Bank with Punjab National Bank, Mandi Branch (Himachal Pradesh) pointed out by authorized Chartered Accountant/Auditor has been dropped by the Board of Directors of the Bank;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the action of the Board of Himachal Grameen Bank having three senior officers of Punjab National Bank was taken under influence; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Reserve Bank of India and Government to safeguard the interest of the Himachal Grameen Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Punjab National Bank (PNB), the sponsor bank of Himachal Grameen Bank (HGB) Mandi, has reported that after due consideration, the Board of Directors of HGB dropped the matter on merits. The claim for interest was made by HGB after bifurcation of the deposit account into SLR and non SLR deposit *w.e.f.* 16.1.94 and HGB was not entitled to claim interest prior to the date of bifurcation of the account *i.e.* 16.1.94

(c) and (d) The decision of the HGB board was unanimous wherein the nominee directors from RBI and NABARD also participated in the meeting held on 24.8.99 in which the matter was dropped.

Rate of interest on GPF contribution

2836. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the rate of interest of GPF contribution for the last three financial years;

(b) whether the rate of interest on both the EPF and GPF subscriptions has been the same since inception;

(c) whether the previous Government had created two different rates of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi